

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00633 191020Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 /051 W
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R 190957Z JAN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
INFO COMNAVACT ROTA SP
SECSTATE WASHDC 3148
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER
16THAF TORREJON SP
DET 2 401TFW MORON AB SP
401 CSG TORREJON SP
406 TFTW ZARAGOZA SP
CNO WASHDC
SECNAV WASHDC
AMCONSUL SEVILLE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00633

FOR ADMIRAL MOORER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP
SUBJECT: PAYMENT OF SPANISH AUTOMOBILE CIRCULATION TAX
BY MEMBERS OF THE US FORCES IN SPAIN -- A COUNTERPROPOSAL
BY THE MAYOR OF ROTA

REF: 77 MADRID 9364 (251844Z NOV 77)

1. AS YOU WILL RECALL, WHEN THE MAYOR OF ROTA CAME TO
SEE ME IN NOVEMBER (REFTEL), HE WAS QUICK TO SUGGEST
THAT THE US FORCES MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO THE TOWN OF ROTA
IN OTHER WAYS AS ACCEPTABLE AS PAYING VEHICLE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 00633 191020Z

CIRCULATION TAXES. HE SAID THAT IF SOME ASSISTANCE
COULD BE PROVIDED, PERHAPS THROUGH CONSTRUCTION OR ROAD
MAINTENANCE PROJECTS, HE WOULD ONCE AND FOR ALL PUT AN
END TO SUGGESTIONS FROM ROTA THAT US FORCES PERSONNEL
ARE LIABLE TO PAY THE CIRCULATION TAX. HE AGREED TO
PROVIDE SOME REALISTIC EXAMPLES OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND,
ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT I COULD NOT PROMISE A

FAVORABLE RESPONSE.

2. INSTEAD, AND WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATION, THE MAYOR HAS NOW GIVEN ME A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE ROTA TOWN COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 14 ASKING THE US GOVERNMENT "TO BUILD EVERY YEAR IN THIS TOWN A PUBLIC WORK OF MANIFEST PUBLIC INTEREST, AND BENEFITTING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, IN VIEW OF THE EXCEPTIONAL BURDENS THE TOWN BEARS..." (I.E., THE COSTS TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATION RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF NON-TAXPAYING PERSONS USING THE TOWN'S FACILITIES.) FOR "THIS YEAR". NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE REFERENCE IS TO 1977 OR 1978) THE RESOLUTION ASKS FOR RELOCATION OF A KEY INTERSECTION ON THE HIGHWAY WHICH PARALLELS THE BASE PERIMETER AND PROVIDES THE MAIN ACCESS TO BOTH THE TOWN AND BASE. (TRANSLATION OF RESOLUTION FOCUSED TO ACTION ADDRESSEES.)

3. SPECIFICALLY, THE MAIN INTERSECTION WHICH NOW PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE TOWN OF ROTA WOULD BE MOVED, FROM ITS PRESENT LOCATION OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE TO THE BASE, ABOUT ONE MILE NORTH ALONG LOCAL HIGHWAY CA-603, RELIEVING CONGESTION AT THE MAIN GATE BY PROVIDING GOOD ACCESS TO AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE INTO THE TOWN. THE PROJECT IS BUDGETED BY THE SPANISH ENGINEER WHO HAS DRAWN UP PLANS APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AT ROUGHLY \$131,000. THE MAYOR HAS PROVIDED A COPY OF THE ENGINEERING STUDY, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00633 191020Z

I HAVE PASSED TO CAPT. MOGER, OICC SPAIN, FOR HIS STUDY AND COMMENT TO YOU AND TO ME.

4. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THIS PROPOSAL RAISES SEVERAL ISSUES: WHETHER IT COULD BE DONE BY US PERSONNEL AT ROTA AND IF SO WITHOUT COMPLAINTS BY LOCAL CONTRACTORS; WHETHER THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO AGREE TO DROP THE CIRCULATION TAX QUESTION; WHETHER YOU COULD COMMIT YOURSELVES TO AN ANNUAL PROJECT; AND THE IMPACT ON PRESSURES AT OUR OTHER MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN.

5. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES, I BELIEVE THE MAYOR'S PROPOSAL WARRANTS OUR SERIOUS STUDY. BEFORE I DECIDE IN WHAT WAY THIS MIGHT BEST BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH THE MAYOR AND WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, I WOULD VALUE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE PROSPECTS OF FITTING SUCH A PROJECT INTO THE US NAVY'S PROGRAM FOR WORK PROJECTS IN OVERSEAS COMMUNITIES, AND ANY OTHER ADVICE YOU MAY WISH TO OFFER. STABLER

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